



TOWN OF MAYNARD

Conservation Commission

Minutes 10/12/2021

195 Main Street

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Commission Members Present: M. John Dwyer, John Milhaven, Susan Erickson, Jeffrey Black, Christopher Ciano-Collins

Town Staff/Consultants: Wayne Amico, Sarah Nalven

Others Present: Liza Smith, MacDonald Development, Victor Olson, Anibal and Ana Salguero, Carolyn Wirth, Sarah Measures, Lisa Hefly, Joyce Dwyer

Meeting called to order at 6:36 by Conservation Commission Chair Susan Erickson.

Administration

A. Minutes

- September 14th minutes were presented. M. J. Dwyer suggested that the date needed to be changed to September 14th, name of owner of 21 Prospect Street property should be included, and a 'to' needed to be inserted after 'made a motion.'
M. J. Dwyer made a motion to approve September 14th minutes as amended, J. Milhaven seconded, passed unanimously.
- October 5th meeting minutes were presented. M. J. Dwyer suggested the minutes should be moved into standard format. M. J. Dwyer suggested rewording "The current situation in Maynard is reactive rather than proactive" to, "In the past and currently, because of the workload the Maynard Conservation Commission is forced to be reactive rather than proactive."
M. J. Dwyer made a motion to approve October 5th minutes as amended, J. Black seconded, passed unanimously.
- J. Black volunteered to take minutes at next meeting.

B. Hiring of New Conservation Agent Update

- S. Nalven passed along update from Assistant Town Administrator Megan Zammuto: Job was posted Friday on the town website and a few other places. Two resumes have been received.

C. Friends of the Pollinator Meadow Requested for Letter of Support

- C. Wirth, former Maynard resident and member of the friends of Pollinator Meadow spoke. She has been working with others in the former honeybee meadow (now Pollinator Meadow). The meadow has been refocused onto native plants and animals rather than strictly honeybees. Dr. Robert Geagor of UMASS Dartmouth, quantifies interactions between native animals and plants. Friends are applying for a Community Preservation Coalition grant to renovate the garden, provide more plants and more opportunities. Goal is to make the meadow ADA compliant and more student friendly. Organization is now at the point of gathering recommendations and endorsements.
- L. Hefly, Maynard resident, spoke. She has been tending meadow for the last two years, working on expanding gardens to lower level, and upper level. The upper meadow is

packed full of invasives, creating more work than can be done with volunteers. The group is at the point of hiring landscape architects and engineers. Site plan dates from before the school was built, no surveys have been done. Survey needs to establish the boundaries. Currently the scope of the project is the footprint of the former Fowler gymnasium.

- S. Erickson asked if the amount of grant is likely to be too much to be funded by CPC?
- C. Ciano-Collins asked if the scope of the project extends to Lincoln street and would the footprint be larger than it is now? Answer is no.
- M. J. Dwyer asked if letters of support are being requested by other entities? Answer was yes, namely the Maynard Community Gardeners.
- M. J. Dwyer asked about Maynard Cultural Council. The Cultural Council was not asked.
- S. Erickson asked that given that the Town owns Artspace, would other groups need to give support for a project there? W. Amico answered that they may need permits, but he suspects they could be obtained for a nominal fee.
- M. J. Dwyer suggested that for the record, all the other members of Friends of the Meadow should sign in: Joyce Dwyer, Lisa Hefly, Liza Smith
- *J. Black made a motion to issue a letter in support, J. Milhaven seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

D. Parks/Grounds/Fields Task

- Request from the Select Board to create a task force composed of liaisons from various town boards and departments in order to clarify responsibilities for the Town's parks, grounds and fields.
- S. Erickson asked if any members might be interested in serving on the task force?
- C. Ciano-Collins indicated that he might be interested, wondered if associate members were eligible and about time commitment?
- S. Nalven indicated she would email Town Administrator and C. Ciano-Collins to investigate.

Public Hearings

A. 115 Main St. Notice Of Intent

- Jaque MacDonald and Jimmy MacDonald requested continuance. Jaque MacDonald spoke. Changes (wall repair), and a few other remaining items prevent re-submission. Plan is to submit it tomorrow morning. Scott Morrison of Ecotec (water scientist) will be present at next meeting to present NOI and go over MassDEP response.
M. J. Dwyer made motion to continue, J. Black seconded, all voted in favor.

B. 31 Main Street Stormwater Permit Certificate of Completion

- S. Nalven talked about the construction of 31 Main Street. The developer never requested a certificate of completion. All conditions have been met with respect to the as-built plans, landscaping.
- *J. Black made a motion to issue the certificate, J. Milhaven seconded. S. Nalven mentioned the need to vote on electronic signatures. J. Dwyer asked if there was a way to issue certificates for all owners (six total units). S. Nalven said it could be done. J. Black amended motion; J. Milhaven seconded amended motion. All voted affirmative. Signatures: All voted affirmative.*

C. 0 Dettling Road Request for Determination of Applicability

- The Town of Maynard Department of Public Works proposes to perform geotechnical investigations to support the design and construction of a water main between future Wellfield 4A and the existing water treatment plant at 0 Dettling Rd.
- V. Olson of Stantec presented. There is a need to develop the well area in order to move water to the water treatment plant behind schools through a pipeline. Method that is going to be used is horizontal directional drilling in which a pit is dug on each side. RDA is just to do soil boring. Sound waves from handheld probes will be used to detect depth of bedrock. Method is not very intrusive, but will involve some brush clearing. They are requesting RDA and any other conditions. Soil boring is an exempt activity under WPA.
- S. Erickson disclosed she works with Blanding's Turtles and asked if they have their Natural Heritage report back? V. Olson wasn't certain, but thought it had been requested to work around nesting seasons. In the middle of November, most turtles will be hibernating.
- S. Nalven said that the RDA reported that turtles should be over-wintering by then.
- C. Ciano-Collins asked for a look at the satellite view. Would clearing be done by hand, or machinery? V. Olson said it should be machinery.
- S. Nalven clarified there is already a path on the west side, only the east side would need clearing. M. J. Dwyer asked for clarification that it is all town land, not part of the adjacent National Wildlife Refuge? Answer was affirmative.
- S. Nalven: Asked about sediment probing, with hip waders? Might they need a small boat. V. Olson said possibly yes. Seismic doesn't work through water. S. Nalven suggested a boat may be less disturbing to sediment than hip waders would be.
- *S. Erickson asked for a motion to close the public hearing.*
- *M. J. Dwyer moved, J. Black seconded, all voted in favor.*
- There was some discussion about which negative determination we would issue. Negative determination, case #5? (exempt) or case #2? Some discussion about exempt vs nonexempt activities
- *S. Erickson made motion for negative determination based on #2 and also #5, conditional to Natural Heritage approval. M. J. Dwyer moved, J. Black seconded. All voted affirmative.*

D. 22 Tobin Drive Request for Determination of Applicability

- Resident Jeffrey Robichaud proposes to remove Japanese knotweed from his property
- Pond was originally a vernal pond because wells were being pumped (1993). Town stopped pumping from wells because of manganese, now there is standing water in the pond. A culvert relieves the pond into wetlands.
- Over the last five years purple loosestrife has been growing. The knotweed is on dry land. The landowner wants to uproot loosestrife but is willing to cut it back. He wants to deal with it now. His research indicates it is best to cut off branches and leaves while they've flowered. Then cover it or use herbicides.
- There was some discussion among commission members about best way to deal with knotweed.
- *M. J. Dwyer made a motion to continue the hearing, J. Milhaven seconded, all voted affirmative.*

Enforcement and Violations

A. Update on enforcement order for 10 Main Street

- S. Nalven screen-shared the planting plan, Jacque MacDonald narrated. Property owner obtained a list of suggested plants, determined what was in stock to be planted this season. Landscape architect couldn't do the plan, so MacDonald did it themselves. Space in question is small, and they didn't want to put in full size trees again since that caused issues the first time.
- S. Erickson asked if trees had been discussed for the site? J. MacDonald confirmed that Witch Hazel is small tree.
- M. J. Dwyer asked if rhododendron is native? Jacque MacDonald replied yes.
- M. J. Dwyer asked about ground cover? Jackie MacDonald replied there already is ground cover and they haven't seen any erosion even given all the rain lately.
- *M. J. Dwyer made a motion to approve the planting plan. J. Black seconded. All voted affirmative.*

B. Update on enforcement order for 6 Glenview Terrace

- Residents Anibal and Ana Salguero, the recipients of this enforcement order, were present, but did not have a pool drainage plan to submit. Anibal said he has been busy at work. Residents also explained they don't have a plan because they don't know what to do. They said they haven't drained the water yet. Would like to get information/plan on how to drain it properly.
- S. Erickson suggested they let pool chlorine dissipate.
- M. J. Dwyer suggested contacting a pool company.
- Resident asked if they could let the water sit for 2 weeks for chlorine to become inactive, then release water into the yard. Residents have also considered using the pool water for plantings.
- S. Nalven asked residents to reply to email with pool drainage plan, and she would put plan in the correct format. They said they would.

C. Update on enforcement order for 2 Brian Way

- The recipient of this enforcement order, Ken Chen, has not been able to attend prior Conservation Commission meetings but was planning to attend this meeting to make a plan with the Conservation Commission for mitigation measures.
- K. Chen was on Zoom meeting until 7 pm, then had to leave. He asked to come to the November meeting.

Grants

A. Historical Commission CPC Project Idea: Historical Ice House

- J. Black reported on visit to site: Foundation was roughly 65 feet from the edge of the river.
- Proposed improvements to plath and Ice House would be within the 200 foot Riverfront Area regulated under the Wetlands Protection Act.
- M. J. Dwyer noted that because the proposed project is completely within the 200 foot area, which is a resource area, the project would need a permit to do the work. M. J. Dwyer will report this information back to the Historical Commission and tell them they need to file a Notice of Intent.

Adjournment

- A. *M. J. Dwyer made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM. The motion was seconded by J. Black and approved unanimously.*